

# Wamp, Berry Lead Trail of Tears Legislation Effort

by Duane King

For years, members of the Trail of Tears Association have labored under the realization that only a portion of the Cherokee Trail of Tears is officially recognized as a National Historic Trail. All of that may be about to change, if Congressmen Zach Wamp (R, TN) and Marion Berry (D, AR) and 17 other co-sponsors of H.R. 3085 have their way. The legislation known as the “Trail of Tears Documentation Act” will complete the Cherokee Trail of Tears, according to Congressman Wamp. At present, trail routes in the states of Georgia and North Carolina, where the majority of Cherokee people began the journey to the west, are not considered part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The same is true for significant sections of the Trail in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, including the routes taken by the Benge and Bell detachments. The



Photo by Gilles Carter

Co-sponsors of H.R. 3085 and TOTA board members meet for a press conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, the day that Congressman Zach Wamp announced the legislation that has been titled the “Trail of Tears Documentation Act.” (Pictured L-R) Rep. Lincoln Davis (D, TN); Jack Baker, TOTA; Duane King, TOTA; Rep. Zach Wamp (R, TN); Principal Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation; and Rep. Tom Cole (R, OK)

legislation calls for a feasibility study to determine whether the additional routes should be added to the National Historic Trail. The bill could result in the designation of an additional 2,000 miles of removal routes.

Congressman Wamp, joined by Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation—Larry Blythe, the Vice Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—representatives of the Trail of Tears Association—and legislative co-sponsors—, announced the introduction of the legislation at a news conference in the Rayburn House Office Building on June 29, 2005. At the news conference, Chief Smith showed a copy of a 1836 petition to Congress containing the names of more than 15,000 Cherokee denouncing the Treaty of New Echota as a fraud. In spite of the protest,

the Senate ratified the treaty on May 23, 1836, and the Cherokee people were given two years in which to voluntarily remove. The overwhelming majority refused, and in May 1838, more than 7,000 federal and state troops were sent to the Cherokee Nation to force the Cherokee people from their homeland.

In 1987, National Historic Trail status was given to the Cherokee Trail of Tears in spite of the fact the location of trails, at the time, were virtually unknown. A study published by the National Park Service in 1986 identified a ten-mile corridor from North Carolina to Oklahoma through which, it was presumed, the trails passed. In Arkansas, the corridor passed east to west through the middle of the state, completely missing most of the routes used by the emigrating

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## Trail of Tears Association President’s Message

A press conference was held in Washington, D. C., on June 29th to announce the introduction of H. R. 3085, which calls for the amendment of the National Trail System Act as it relates to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. If passed, it will provide for the inclusion of the Benge and Bell routes as well as extend the Trail from the internment camps used just prior to removal to the collection forts scattered throughout the Cherokee Nation.

It is fitting that this legislation be introduced. Currently, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail does not extend into either Georgia or North Carolina. At the time of the Cherokee’s forced removal on what became known as the Trail of Tears, more than half of the Cherokee people lived in Georgia and almost a quarter lived in North Carolina. This bill would extend the Historic Trail into those states whose

Cherokee inhabitants made up almost three fourths of those who were on the Trail of Tears.

The Trail of Tears Association was formed in 1993 and it quickly became apparent to our Association members that the legislation that created the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail needed to be amended to extend the Trail routes into Georgia and North Carolina as well as recognize other routes used on the removal. This legislation does that.

By adding the Bell route, the Trail segment from Memphis to Little Rock will encompass sections of the removal routes also used by the Muscogee (Creek), Chickasaw, and Choctaw. Virtually all of the Chickasaw Nation was removed along this segment. If this legislation is enacted, it should facilitate the addition of all the removal routes



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association

used by those tribes, as well as the Seminole in later legislation. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Congressmen Zach Wamp and Marion Berry, as well as the other 17 co-sponsors, for introducing this bill. Please contact your congressman and let him/her know that you support this bill!

Jack D. Baker

## National Trails System Office Superintendent’s Message

Summer in Santa Fe is a delightful time for enjoying cool nights, especially after hot days, and observing the activities of many visitors enjoying the local sights, sounds, tastes, and smells. Recently I attended an international folk art fair held at our neighboring state museums and noted the extraordinary skills of many artists and artisans from around the world. I am told the next festivals are even larger. The Eight Northern Pueblo Craft Fair and Indian Market are major events ensuring continu-



Jere Krakow, Superintendent of the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

ation of many traditional artistic expressions of Pueblo and tribal members.

For the Trail of Tears program and activities, much has taken place

since February 2005, and key updates from National Park Service staff here in Santa Fe are included in this issue of the newsletter. In addition, I want to underscore ongoing efforts by the Park Service and by the Partnership for the National Trails System to obtain base funding support for the trail in the next fiscal year. We are cautiously optimistic on that front.

A key funding account that has been earmarked by Congress for the National Trails System is the Challenge Cost-Share Program. We have benefited from that earmark for many trails, and again this year several proposals for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail have been submitted by Association members. Next year sounds equally promising for cost-share funding.

From the recently concluded meetings in Las Vegas, federal agency budgets for next year hold promise for funding increases for the National Trails System. At this time increased budget support from the National Park Service for specific trails

such as the Trail of Tears is not available. Exact amounts will be known after Congress passes the appropriation bill to fund the Department of Interior agencies for next fiscal year that begins October 1.

In April, John Conoboy and I participated in the strategic planning session held in conjunction with the spring board meeting of the Association in Little Rock. The draft has been reviewed and we look forward to completion of the plan and the work of committees to carry out actions to implement it.

All in all, the collaboration of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Trails System staff in Santa Fe is very solid. I am committed to maintaining and strengthening the relationship over the next months and years. Together we do make a difference.

Jere Krakow

## NPS Staff, TOTA Officers Visit Trail of Tears Sites in OK, AR

### Cherokee Nation Capital of Old Settlers, Disbandment Sites Possible Certifications

by John Conoboy

On July 6, TOTA President Jack Baker, TOTA Vice President Troy Poteete, and National Park Service staff member John Conoboy visited the site of Tahlonteeskee in Oklahoma, the Cherokee capital established by the Old Settlers in 1828. There are no remains of the capital, the site of which is on private land, but a nearby museum recreates some of the capital’s buildings. The three then met with former Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief John Ketcher to look at a possible interpretive site at a city park along the Arkansas River. The four talked with the mayor of Webbers Falls, and then, with the help of Troy’s cousin, took an airboat ride down the Arkansas and up the Illinois to a location just below the Tahlonteeskee site. The site offers the possibility to interpret the arrival of one of the removal detachments near the mouth of

the Illinois River. A certification agreement will be prepared for the Tahlonteeskee museum.

On July 7, Baker and Conoboy joined TOTA Oklahoma chapter President Curtis Rohr and visited a number of sites in Northeast Oklahoma and Northwest Arkansas to look for possible places to interpret the arrival of Cherokee detachments in Indian Territory. Exhibits will be completed in the coming year for two sites where detachments disbanded, one near the Baptist Church north of Westville, Oklahoma, and another site at the cemetery in Stillwell, Oklahoma. Funding for these will come from the NPS Challenge Cost Share program with a match from the Goingsnake Historical Society. Future possibilities exist for interpretation at the site of

Fort Wayne in Delaware County, Oklahoma, where four detachments arrived. In addition, there may be an opportunity to place exhibits in downtown Tahlequah near the Cherokee Courthouse.



(L-R) Former Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief John Ketcher, Webbers Falls Mayor Jewell Horne, Troy Poteete, and Jack Baker pose for a photo at the Battle of Webbers Falls Park during a tour of the original Tahlonteskee site.

### LEGISLATION

Continued from page 1



Photo by Gilles Carter

(L-R) Deputy Principal Chief Larry Blythe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Rep. Charles Taylor (R, NC); Rep. Marion Berry (D, AR); Rep. Dan Boren (D, OK); Rep. Zach Wamp (R, TN); and Principal Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation, visit after the press conference introducing H.R. 3085.

Cherokee. In 1992, the National Park Service published a Map Supplement for the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Only a portion of one overland and one water route were designated as the National Historic Trail.

The proposed legislation has been facilitated by the cumulative research of the trail routes sponsored by the National Park Service and undertaken by individual members of the Trail of Tears Association. The systematic study of the past two decades has resulted in a critical mass of data that allows us to now define with a high degree of certainty the actual routes used by emigrating Cherokee during the period of the forced removal. The legislation will not only stand as a tribute to those who were forced on the arduous journey in the 19th century but also to members of the Trail of Tears Association whose commitment will ensure that this part of our nation’s history is not forgotten.

The Cherokee Trail of Tears Documentation Act will result in the official designation of some of the most important trail segments and sites associated with of the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Such designation will enhance the public understanding and appreciation of this event in American History and will ensure that the lessons learned will forever remain part of the American conscience.

The Trail of Tears Association thanks the following U.S. congressmen for their co-sponsoring of H.R. 3085:

Robert Aderholt (R, AL)  
Marion Berry (D, AR)  
John Boozman (R, AR)  
Dan Boren (D, OK)  
Tom Cole (R, OK)  
Robert E. “Bud” Cramer, Jr. (D, AL)  
Lincoln Davis (D, TN)  
Nathan Deal (R, GA)  
John Duncan (R, TN)  
Jo Ann Emerson (R, MO)  
Harold E. Ford, Jr. (D, TN)  
Phil Gingrey (R, GA)  
Frank D. Lucas (R, OK)  
Vic Snyder (D, AR)  
John Sullivan (R, OK)  
John S. Tanner (D, TN)  
Charles H. Taylor (R, NC)  
Zach Wamp (R, TN)  
Ed Whitfield (R, KY)

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Chapter held its spring 2005 meeting in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on April 23, with approximately 60 in attendance. Three new board members were elected. These were Mary Adair, Roy Hamilton, and Carol Richmond. In conjunction with the meeting, we held a grave marking at the Gilstrap Cemetery in honor of Trail of Tears survivors Hillard and Martha Fields Rogers. We were privileged to have Bud Adams in attendance at our meeting and ceremony. Mr. Adams is a Rogers descendant and the owner of the professional football team, the Tennessee Titans. He is a great supporter of various Cherokee projects and activities.



Photo courtesy of Betty Barker

President Jack Baker of TOTA speaks to those gathered for the grave marking of Hillard and Martha Rogers, the ancestors of Tennessee Titans owner Bud Adams (pictured second from right).

On April 16, two survivors of the Trail of Tears, George Keith and Betsey Hair Ashhopper, were honored at Clear Springs Cemetery near Stilwell, Oklahoma. Betsey is the ancestor of Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith and our national coordinator, Jerra Quinton. In May 2005, we also honored Parmelia Sixkiller at Old Baptist Cemetery near Westville, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma chapter has located and identified two of the five Cherokee disembarking depots. These are the Bushyhead Depot near Westville, and Mrs. Webber's (also known as Colonel Adair's) at Stilwell. Both have been submitted to the National Park Service for recognition as a certified site along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. We hope this will be accom-

### Oklahoma (continued)

plished in the near future, along with interpretation and signage. Research is also in progress to locate the depot at Beaties Prairie near Fort Wayne, about five miles southwest of Maysville, Arkansas.

Plans are being made to hold the Oklahoma chapter fall meeting in the Choctaw Nation at Wheelock Academy on September 24, 2005. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. Wheelock is located just off of Highway 70 near Millerton, Oklahoma. This will be the first meeting held in the Choctaw Nation by the Trail of Tears Association. We appreciate this invitation from the Choctaw Nation and the interest shown in the Oklahoma chapter. We look forward to their future involvement.

We hope to see all our friends at the national TOTA conference in October in Chattanooga.

### Arkansas

In hopes of encouraging more published research, the Arkansas chapter board has established an annual writing prize to be awarded for the best article appearing in an Arkansas historical journal during the calendar year on a topic relating to Indian Removal and Arkansas. The 2005 cash prize will include \$150 to the winning author and \$50 to the journal.

In addition to public programs in May at Camden and in July at Russellville, the chapter continues to collaborate with its network of institutional partners. ARTOTA hosted a state partnership meeting in early 2005 at the Historic Arkansas Museum to provide a forum for exchanging information and sharing goals. We hope to host future meetings as well. Here's what some of our partners have been doing. You can read more at each of their websites.

**American Native Press Archives:** Whether the topic is Choctaw Removal through Camden or the convergence of removal routes at Russellville, someone from ANPA's *Indian Removal Through Arkansas* project gives a fact-filled presentation at

### Arkansas (continued)

each of our public programs. Read more about ANPA's other activities elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Arkansas Archeological Survey:** AAS hopes to complete a corridor atlas showing Indian Removal routes through Arkansas by early 2006. It will be published on paper and online at the survey's website.

**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program,** an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage: In addition to National Register activities noted elsewhere, AHPP educates the public through events such as its *Sandwiching in History* lunchtime series, which will visit the North Little Rock riverfront October 7 to talk about the Trail of Tears.

**Arkansas State Parks:** Trail of Tears sites within the state park system are featured at a new agency website – [www.historystateparks.com](http://www.historystateparks.com).

**Department of Arkansas Heritage:** Another DAH agency, the Delta Cultural Center on the Mississippi River at Helena, has been certified as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail interpretive site.

### Georgia

The Georgia chapter has first-hand experience with the value of state chapters' partnering with local entities to further the work of mapping and marking Trail of Tears sites. What began as a proposal by the chapter's research chair, Doug Mabry, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Old Federal Road in Georgia has resulted in the creation of a driving tour of the Federal Road which ran through the heart of the Cherokee Nation at the time of the Removal. At completion, the brochure and audio tour will feature all the important Cherokee landmarks in north Georgia, which were adjacent to the Federal Road, such as New Echota, the Vann House, and the boyhood home of Brigadier General Stand Watie and Elias Boudinot. The documenting, mapping, and preserving of the Federal Road is coming to fruition thanks

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News (continued)

### Georgia (continued)

to the partnership of the Georgia chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and various other state and local governments and historical societies.

Representatives from the various entities involved in the Federal Road initiative updated progress of the project at the July 9th Georgia chapter membership meeting, held at the historic Old Stone Church in Catoosa County, GA. About 80 interested individuals attended the meeting, shared lunch provided by the chapter, and took a bus tour of remnants of the Federal Road adjacent to Little Tiger Creek in Catoosa County. Catoosa County Commission Chair Bill Clark opened the presentation, noting historical connections between the Federal Road and the Trail of Tears removal route. Doug Mabry explained the initiative and its impact on historical preservation and the tourism value of the planned tour, which will connect scenic byways being planned by various communities in North Georgia. Ted Ownby of the Center for Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi presented an overview of Phase I, which involves photo documentation by Dr. David Warton and Ownby's written report. Matt Reynolds of the Center for Archeological Research, also at the University of Mississippi, explained Phase II, the mapping process, which employs 19th-century maps, current maps with global positioning aspects, and on-site observation of intact portions of the roadbed. Phase II will also include testing at three tentatively identified removal fort/stockade sites near the road. The work of these professionals will be presented to archeologist Eric Duff of the Georgia Department of Transportation. The result will be directional markers, a brochure, and audio tour, which will be available to the NPS.

Among those present at the meeting were Jerra Quinton from the national TOTA office; Lucy Banks, from The Trust for Public Lands; Alice Carson from the tourism division of the Georgia Department

### Georgia (continued)

of Economic Development; Betty Ann Serkowski, President of the Gordon County Chamber of Commerce; and State Senator Don Thomas, State Representative Tom Dickson, and County Commissioners Bill Clark and Ron Gracy of Catoosa County.

### Tennessee

Over the course of the last several months, Shirley Lawrence and Doris Tate Trevino have put in a lot of hours researching the Samuel Parks family that came from Tennessee, went to Oklahoma, and returned to Tennessee during the removal years. They had been asked to do this by Lion Television in New York, producers of *History Detectives* on PBS. Lion was doing a story about a Cherokee bible that was published in 1860. As Shirley and Doris uncovered more and more information, Lion TV decided to come to Tennessee to film a segment for *History Detectives*. Also participating were Jamie Russell and Cleata Townsend. It is set to air sometime this month, July 2005. The TV crew also traveled to Oklahoma prior to coming to Tennessee for filming.

On May 2, 2005, members of the Tennessee chapter attended the sign dedication for the Moccasin Bend Archeological District. Congressman Zach Wamp, who just introduced legislation regarding additional routes to the Trail, attended the ceremony.



Photo by Lido Vizzutti , Chattanooga Times Free Press

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Superintendent Pat Reed, far right, applauds as two park workers unveil the new sign for the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. Others pictured are, from left, Tennessee chapter President Doris Trevino, Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey; U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, and Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield.

### Tennessee (continued)

On May 13, 2005, the chapter participated in the "Passage" at Ross' Landing in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Members were asked to gather people to carry torches from the North shore across the bridge to Ross' Landing, as Chief Smith and Chief Hicks were lighting the torches along the river's edge below. TOTA chapters represented were Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Members of these chapters carried torches across the bridge. The Oklahoma chapter was also present but remained below at the river's edge with Tommy Wildcat playing the flute. It was a very emotional time, and TOTA members had countless compliments as they came off the bridge from the public that came to witness the event. Earlier in the day, a reunion of sorts took place at the Tennessee chapter's display table, as members from Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Kentucky gathered, talked, and handed out applications and information about the Trail of Tears Association and the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe's Ferry.

The Tennessee chapter is hosting the annual TOTA conference in Chattanooga, October 31 – November 3, 2005. Also, the chapter is sponsoring the Cherokee Nation History Class at Chattanooga State Community College on October 29 – 30, and November 12 – 13, 2005.

The Tennessee chapter's last meeting was held in Woodbury, Tennessee, on June 11, 2005. Bill Jones participated in a Woodbury radio show about the Trail of Tears on the 9th, two days prior to our meeting, in order to make the public aware of the history and to give notice of our meeting should anyone like to attend.

The next chapter meeting will be held at Red Clay, on August 6, 2005. The Tennessee chapter will have a booth set up there for the 23rd Annual Cherokee Days of Recognition. The event runs August 6 – 7, 2005. Hope to see everyone there.

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News (continued)

### Illinois

After a great start in 2004, the following officers were elected: Dr. Andrew West, president; Dr. Darrell Latch, vice president; and Cheryl Jett, secretary/treasurer. At the Annual Conference last fall, Dr. West was elected as an at-large member to the national board. At the recent May chapter board meeting, Dr. Rowena McClinton was re-elected and Dr. Latch appointed to the national board. The chapter is busy organizing its research, trail-marking, and site certification program. Also, Dr. Latch just completed his forthcoming documentary and book, both titled *The Trail*. For more information, please contact Dr. Latch at [sonlight@netcare-il.com](mailto:sonlight@netcare-il.com), or 217-253-4175.

### Kentucky

The Kentucky chapter met in March at the Livingston County Courthouse in Smithland, Kentucky. Mary Lou Smith of the Livingston County Historical Society attended and brought along with her a 1830-1860 map of the area, showing the old Golconda-to-Hopkinsville road. This map will assist chapter members in documenting places of interest along the Trail. Also in March, Kentucky chapter board members Alice Murphree and Beverly Baker represented the Kentucky chapter at the Illinois chapter meeting in Golconda, Illinois, to participate in a discussion on the Ohio River crossing and Berry's Ferry.

Murphree and Baker, also the Kentucky representatives on the national Trail of Tears Association board, attended the April TOTA board meeting in Little Rock and participated in the Cherokee dedication in Chattanooga in May.

A chapter meeting was held on July 28, 2005, and was attended by TOTA coordinator, Jerra Quinton. The meeting began at

**Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters will routinely appear in future issues of this newsletter. Contact Jerra Quinton, Trail of Tears Association coordinator, at [TOTAjerra@aol.com](mailto:TOTAjerra@aol.com), or at (501) 666-9032, to submit information and photographs.**

### Kentucky (continued)

1:00 p.m., in Marion, Kentucky, at the Technology Economic Development Center, which is owned by the city.

The first year of operation is now complete for the chapter, and membership has doubled since our inaugural meeting. Officers will not change until next year and chapter members are continuing to search for places along Kentucky's portion of the Trail that could qualify for special Trail of Tears National Historic Trail recognition.

Our thanks go out to Congressman Ed Whitfield (R, KY) (as well as the other 16 congressmen) for his quick response to our request to join Representatives Zach Wamp (R, TN) and Marion Berry (D, AR) in the new Trail of Tears National Historic Trail legislation.

### Missouri

The Missouri chapter met in Doniphan, Missouri, April 2, 2005, for its spring meeting. It was hosted by the Ripley County Historical Society at Doniphan with 40 people attending. The main topic was the route John Benge took in 1838 when he led over 1,000 Cherokee emigrants through Missouri on their way to Indian Territory. The Benge detachment included some 60 wagons and over 600 horses using the Old Military Road, otherwise known as "Natchitoches Trail." Where Benge crossed the Current River from Missouri into Arkansas is a point of local discussion. Ray Burton gave one of the local views. Chapter Vice President Susan Zornek-Stevens gave an overview of the Benge Route and the other two Missouri Trail routes. Bill Woodiel, a member of the Arkansas chapter, discussed Benge and things he had found researching his forthcoming book, *Yoke on the Trail of Tears*. Arkansas chapter President Kitty Sloan added to the discussion on the Benge Route in Arkansas. Missouri chapter President Deloris Gray Wood gave an update on the research regarding the Hildebrand Route through middle-Missouri. Denise Dowling and Hershel Price, former national board members, talked about Trail routes from the

### Missouri (continued)

Mississippi River west to Farmington, Missouri. Ted Roller gave an overview of the Trail from the Danforth House east of Springfield, Missouri, west and south into Arkansas. He shared many of his maps of the Trail of Tears routes in Missouri. Dave Murphy gave an overview of the Texas County and Wright County part of the Hildebrand Route.

Dr. Burl Self, a Southwest Missouri State University geography professor, was the keynote speaker at the Missouri chapter's summer meeting, which was held Saturday, July 30, at 1 p. m., at the Springfield-Green County Library in Springfield, Missouri. Dr. Self is a Choctaw Indian and has done much research on the Plains Indians.

### Trail of Tears Audio Programs Receive Much Needed Repairs

*by John Conoboy*

The National Trails System – Santa Fe provided funding to bring Warren Duke, an audiovisual specialist from the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia, to the Cherokee Heritage Center to fix some problems that have developed with the audiovisual programs in the Trail of Tears exhibits. Warren spent July 6-8, 2005, working on the AV equipment. He will also be making recommendations for any additional needed repairs or equipment replacement. The programs are on laser-discs, which was the common technology for museum AV programs when installed, but which



NPS audiovisual specialist Warren Duke provides some tune-ups for a Trail of Tears exhibit.

is now replaced by DVDs. Laserdiscs and laser-disc players are no longer being made.

## TRTE Certified Site's Reports Taking Shape

*by Steve Burns*

Work has been ongoing for the past three years to complete a critical combined historic structures report and cultural landscape report, which will guide the long-term preservation and treatment of the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home. This kind of document is a critical and useful tool for long-term guidance and preservation and for seeking funding for implementing the recommendations of the report. This may be a model for similar historic properties along the TRTE.

The work is being accomplished by a multiple partnership between the Chieftains Museum Major Ridge Home, the National Trails System, and the NPS Intermountain Region Santa Fe Division of Historic Preservation Projects, who are managing the project and completing the Historic Structures Report section of the combined document. National Trails Office staffs are contributing to the effort according to their expertise, and Landscape Architect Steve Burns is completing the cultural landscape part of the combined report. A contract that has recently been completed by research consultants at Southern Research of Georgia for historical documentation of the Ridge Home and property was funded using challenge cost-share money, as well as funds from the Chieftains Museum Major Ridge Home. The emphasis of the report will be on the home of Major Ridge but will include the report documentation and treatment recommendations for the landscape.

Exciting new discoveries have already resulted as an outcome of this first-ever-undertaken research and documentation. Several historic Ridge period landscape features have been discovered, including the

ferry landing sites on both sides of the River, as well as an amazing discovery of the historic road that connected the homes and farms of John Ross and Major Ridge. Much

**“Exciting new discoveries have already resulted. . . including. . . an amazing discovery of the historic road that connected the homes and farms of John Ross and Major Ridge.”**

of this very important road that linked these two important figures in Cherokee History is on city-owned land within Riverside Park. Discussions are under way with the city to explore possibilities to interpret the road and with Berry College to link and interpret the Ridge ferry site on the west side of the Ostanalla River that they own, and that also includes part of the Ridge era road to New Echota. The Berry College side of the Ferry also remains in agricultural use and would offer visitors a feeling of the landscape that Ridge would have experienced and that is completely lost now at the Ridge Home.

As a result of this project documentation, it has become increasingly clear that both the landscape and the home of Major Ridge have been so significantly altered through time that a visitor today is not experiencing anything close to what would have existed during Ridge's ownership of the property. As the project progresses, it will be a significant challenge to explore treatment alternatives that preserve the significant historic resources and characteristics of the house and property and interpret them to the public, which provides a more meaningful and accurate understanding of this important historical site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

## Trail Organizations Meet in Las Vegas for Conference

*by John Conoboy*

The Partnership for the National Trails System held the National Historic and Scenic Trails Conference in Las Vegas June 18-22, 2005, in conjunction with the Old Spanish Trail Association annual meeting. The conference themes were education, tourism, and stewardship. National Trails System – Santa Fe staff attended, and Jerra Quinton represented

the Trail of Tears Association. One important announcement was that there will be a meeting next year in Kansas City, Missouri, just for national historic trail groups. This will be a great opportunity for historic trail associations and federal agency staffs to meet and discuss issues that relate specifically to historic trails.



Much of the "Road from Ross to Ridges," recently documented as part of the Chieftains Museum Major Ridge Home, is currently within the City of Rome's Riverfront Park. Over this road, the two most important figures in the story of Cherokee removal traveled regularly and were connected during a later divided struggle against removal.



*Photo courtesy of Brett Riggs*

This map shows a section of the 1838 Army map of North Carolina showing the route of the military road. (See article page 9)



# TOTA Combines Board Meeting with Strategic Planning Session

by Jerra Quinton

The Trail of Tears Association board met April 18–19, 2005, in North Little Rock, Arkansas, not only for their annual Spring board meeting, but also for a strategic planning session. NPS staff Jere Krakow and John Conoboy joined the group for the two-day meeting. Facilitator Ken Hubbell from Ken Hubbell & Associates, based in Little Rock, led the group in creating a draft plan that will direct TOTA for the next 5 to 10 years. Five committees were developed during the planning session: (1) interpretation, (2) administration, (3) research, (4) collaboration, and (5) funding/sustainability. These five committees will work on refining their

individual parts of the strategic plan in the next several months. The plan will be available for the membership afterward.

North Little Rock Mayor Pat Hays met the group on the second day. He thanked TOTA



Photo by Marty King  
Dan Littlefield (right) introduces North Little Rock Mayor Pat Hays to the Trail of Tears Association board.

and the NPS for its hard work and described some of the current work of the

city to interpret the Trail of Tears story. Afterward, Mayor Hays led the group down to the riverfront where wayside exhibits were recently installed interpreting the North Little Rock involvement of Removal.

After one and half days of strategic planning, the board of directors were called to order at 2:30 p.m. Board members present were Ginger Abernathy, Beverly Baker, Jack Baker, Betty Barker, Riley Bock, Dola Davis, Patsy Edgar, Sue Folsom, Bobbie Heffington, Bill Jones, Duane King, Gail

See BOARD, page 11

## Vision Becoming Reality - Using Partnerships to Develop the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of this tragic event in our Nation's history by establishing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The National Park Service administers the Trail in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies; the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; interested groups; and private landowners.

The Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office-Santa Fe have been working with Trail partners to increase visibility for the Trail and to develop it for visitor use. Old traces, historic buildings, and other resources are being preserved. Many sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as route signing, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities.

### Newly Certified Sites

Delta Cultural Center, AR  
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN  
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC  
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL

### Certified Sites

Audubon Acres, TN  
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN  
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN  
Campground Cemetery, IL  
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN  
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC  
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK  
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA

City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR  
Gray's Inn, KY  
John Ross House, GA  
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR  
Mantle Rock, KY  
Murrell Home, OK  
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC  
New Echota State Historic Site, GA  
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN  
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN  
Tennessee River Museum, TN  
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY  
Vann House Historic Site, GA  
VC/Moccasin Springs Road/NancyHildebrand's Gravesite-Trail of Tears State Park, MO

### Pending Certifications

Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN  
City of Chattanooga trail routes and historic sites, TN  
City of Nashville trail routes, TN  
Fort Gibson, OK

### Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR  
Berry Ferry, KY  
Cadron Settlement Park, AR  
Cherokee Memorial Park-Blythe Ferry, TN  
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, GA  
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN  
Mark Twain National Forest, MO  
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR  
Shawnee National Forest, MO  
Stones River National Battlefield, TN

### Trail of Tears Association State Chapter Contacts

**Alabama**  
Gail King  
256-782-8207  
E-mail: [gail-king@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gail-king@worldnet.att.net)

**Arkansas**  
Kitty Sloan  
Phone: 870-239-4252

**Georgia**  
Tommy Cox  
Phone: 770-382-4012  
E-mail: [tc12@bellsouth.net](mailto:tc12@bellsouth.net)

**Illinois**  
Andrew West  
Phone: 618-993-5114  
E-mail: [westfam@hcis.net](mailto:westfam@hcis.net)

**Kentucky**  
Beverly Baker  
Phone: 270-886-9777 (day)

**North Carolina**  
Jane Eastman  
Phone: 828-227-3841  
E-mail: [jeastman@email.wcu.edu](mailto:jeastman@email.wcu.edu)

**Tennessee**  
Doris Trevino  
Phone: 931-598-5953  
E-mail: [president@tntota.org](mailto:president@tntota.org)

**Missouri**  
Deloris Gray Wood  
Phone: 573-729-2545  
E-mail: [tomwood@wavecomputers.net](mailto:tomwood@wavecomputers.net)

**Oklahoma**  
Curtis Rohr  
Phone: 918-341-4689  
E-mail: [clrfnr58@att.net](mailto:clrfnr58@att.net)

# NC Recognizes Significance of “Old Army Road”

by Brett Riggs and Lance Greene, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, UNC at Chapel Hill

In many areas of the Old Cherokee Nation East, the routes used in the military roundup of Cherokee prisoners are obscure and difficult to identify among many potential options. In North Carolina, however, the rugged landscape canalizes travel in a few corridors that the U.S. Army mapped in detail, and reconstruction of routes and identification of surviving segments of the original trails and roads is more straightforward. A good example is the military road constructed over the Snowbird Mountains to connect the Cheoah Valley to the state road at Valley Towns. This road, which followed an existing trail up Pile Ridge (Cherokee County) and down Long Creek (Graham County), was the primary route used for the military deportation of more than 300 Cherokee citizens from the Cheoah Valley in the summer of 1838. Recent surveys by the TOTA North Carolina chapter and the University of North Carolina Research Laboratories of Archaeology have identified substantial segments of the original roadbed that survive in the Nantahala National Forest along Pile Ridge and upper Long Creek.

In January 1838, Army surveyors plotted the route across the Snowbird Mountains, following an ancient Cherokee foot path. Survey fieldnotes indicate a route that began in present-day downtown Andrews, and followed a single bearing (N4°E) to the crest of the Snowbird Mountains. The notes state, “The trail ascends the mountain on the top of a narrow ridge [Pile Ridge] having hollows on each side—the course is very little changed.” The trail climbed Pile Ridge to the summit of the Snowbird Mountains, turned westward along the ridgeline, then descended the Long Creek Valley to modern-day Robbinsville, a distance of seven miles.

In mid-May 1838, North Carolina militia constructed a wagon road along the survey route to connect Fort Delaney with the Cheoah Valley, then built Fort Montgomery at the northern end of the road. Beginning June 12, 1838, North Carolina troops stationed at Fort Montgomery detained approximately 300 Cherokee prisoners from Cheoah, Tallula, Connichiloe, and Buffalo Town at

Fort Montgomery. These prisoners started their trek to Fort Butler, NC, during the fourth week of June 1838. The prisoners traveled from Fort Montgomery to Fort Delaney along the Pile Ridge-Long Creek military road, then followed the state road south to Fort Butler. After a short stay at Fort Butler, the Cheoah prisoners, like thousands of other North Carolina Cherokees, were marched 80 miles over the Unicoi Turnpike and connecting routes to Fort Cass to await their deportation to Oklahoma.

Modern researchers have used the 1838 Army survey fieldnotes and local informants to relocate and evaluate vestiges of the Old Army Road across the Snowbird Mountains. At the southern end of the trail, the roadbed may be represented by a private driveway (Azalea Lane) that crosses Tatham Gap Road. North of Tatham Gap Road, the old military road enters the wooded toe of Pile Ridge, and is evident as sunken foot trail that continues northward along the ridgecrest on private property for 2,800 ft. The trail then crosses into the Nantahala National Forest, and is discernable as a footpath that extends northward along the heavily wooded ridgeline for 2,900 ft, where it is obscured or obliterated for 1,770 ft by a logging road. Like the trail mapped in 1838, the logging road skirts to the east of a series of high knobs to reach a level saddle, know locally as the “Halfway Ground,” at the intersection with Tatham Gap Road. North of the Halfway Ground, the original route is discernable as an entrenched wagon road that extends 7,000 ft along the spine of Pile Ridge to the crestline of Snowbird Mountain.

No Army survey notes for the northern half of the old Army Road beyond Pile Ridge are currently known. Instead, researchers referred to local informant Dewey Sharp (born 1909), who was intimately familiar with the “old road that the Army built to take the Indians out of here,” both from personal use of the route and from the accounts of his grandfather, James Hamilton Sharp (b. 1835), who moved to the Cheoah Valley shortly after removal. In 1997, Mr. Sharp guided reseachers along the route of the old Army



Photo courtesy of Brett Riggs

T.J. Holland of the Junaluska Museum looks at a segment of the Old Army Road near the Halfway Ground.

Road from the crest of the Snowbird Mountains northward to Long Creek Church. Beginning at Tatham Gap, Mr. Sharp led the authors west to the summit of Pile Ridge, where he positively identified the road trace at that juncture as the old military road. From this point, Mr. Sharp proceeded westward along the current jeep trace, noting that this road is coincident with the old military road for approximately 2,400 ft along the crestline of the Snowbird Mountains (at 3,760 feet AMSL, one of the highest points traversed in the Cherokee removal). The old military road then turns north and descends into the Long Creek drainage along “Old Road Branch,” passing through birch and hemlock forest and rhododendron thickets. Approximately 3,000 ft north of the ridge, the old road again intersects the Tatham Gap Road approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Tatham Gap. Large (36”) chestnut stumps (that died due to the chestnut blight of the 1910s-1920s) that line the edges of the road along this segment attest the age of the trace.

The old roadbed remains relatively intact as it descends another 2,800 ft along the western side of Long Creek, then recrosses the Tatham Gap Road, and continues another 900 ft before it crosses to the eastern side of Long Creek. From this point northward, the original roadbed is largely obscured by the current Tatham Gap Road. North of Rock Creek, on privately held land outside the Nantahala National Forest, the old military road again ran along the western side of the creek, then crossed to the east to pass behind the present Long Creek Church

See OLD ARMY ROAD, page 14

# Chattanooga Unveils Its New Trail of Tears Memorial with Ceremony

by Deborah Kirk-Rodriguez

“In honor of my great-great-great grandfather (Tsa-tsi Da-la-si-ni), great-great grandfather (Wa-Ki-Gu Da-la-si-ni, aka Lacy Christie), great-great grandmother (Qua-tse Christie, aka Betsy Christie), and great-



Photo by Janis Kirk  
Sarah Vaughn carries her torch across the bridge at Ross' Landing with grandson Rick LaBrie.

Tears Association member Sarah Vaughn, as she held her torch high and led

Cherokee descendents of the Trail of Tears and TOTA members across the bridge near Ross' Landing. Ross' Landing is the exact spot where Mrs. Vaughn's family crossed the river on their way to Indian Territory. Sadly, the lives of Tsa-tsi Da-la-si-ni and Betsy Christie were lost on the trail.

It was fitting that the great-great granddaughter of Lacy Christie would lead with fire. Family tradition states that Lacy Christie was a chief of a ceremonial fire in the Old Cherokee Nation. He brought the eternal flame over the Trail of Tears. After arriving in the new Nation, he immediately began the religious stomp and carried on in the traditions of the Cherokee. The fire carried by Mrs. Vaughn was part of the finale of a day of events known as “The Passage,” which took place on May 13, 2005, to honor the history of the Cherokee in Chattanooga and welcome back to the East the Trail of Tears descendents. While Chief Chad Smith (Cherokee Nation) and Chief Michell Hicks (Eastern Band of Cherokee)



Photo courtesy of Chattanooga Times Free Press  
Principal Chiefs Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation, and Michell Hicks, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, carry torches at “The Passage” ceremony.

lit giant torches along the Chattanooga waterfront, Mrs. Vaughn led 72 descendents and TOTA members in the torch procession across the bridge. “It was really something,” Mrs. Vaughn exclaimed, “I'm really glad I got to be a part of this.”

Sarah Vaughn, a resident of Redding, California, is 86 years old.

Deborah Kirk-Rodriguez is Sarah Vaughn's granddaughter and is the secretary for the Tennessee chapter of TOTA.

## Recent Supporters

The Trail of Tears Association thanks the following parties for their financial support:

**Up to \$100**  
M. J. Christopher Bryan, Georgia  
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Cherokee Nation Enterprises  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

**\$25,000 or More**  
Charlene Krupp, Michigan  
National Park Service

# Newly Proposed Trail of Tears Routes Already Take Shape

by Aaron Mahr

As we take note of the introduction of H.R. 3085, which calls for assessing the feasibility of adding the routes of the Bell and Bengé Detachments, the roundup routes, and the land components of the water routes to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, we should also acknowledge the considerable amount of research and fieldwork that has already gone into documenting these routes since the designation of the Trail in 1987. Trail-wide enthusiasts, scholars, and agencies have expended a lot of energy in finding these elusive trail alignments and often advocating for their inclusion in the national historic trail.

Much of their work has informed the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail's Geographic Information System map database, which can be accessed at [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte). This site, which is still under construction, can be consulted for the general alignments of the proposed routes. This database is updated and revised as new research emerges. Undoubtedly, if H.R. 3085 becomes law, the pace of research will accelerate and revisions to the map database will become commonplace.



This segment of the Unicoi Turnpike at Schuler Creek has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

While the types of research activities across the trail have varied and contributed in different ways to our overall knowledge of the trail, one of the most effective means of contributing to the commemoration of the Trail of Tears has been the nomination of trail sites to the National Register of Historic Places. In the last several years, various partners have worked closely with the National Park Service to identify, document, and prepare nomination forms for sites along the trail. Not surprisingly, a large part of this effort focused on the routes that are currently being proposed for inclusion

on the national historic trail. Notable highlights of this ongoing effort in 2005 include the following:

Through a cost-share arrangement with the University of North Carolina, Dr. Brett Riggs and Lance Green have presented nominations for eight roundup sites in the state, including the William Constant grave site at Fort Lindsay. Riggs and Green also wrote nominations for several segments of the roundup routes in North Carolina, including a long stretch of the Army Road

See ROUTES, page 12

## AHPP Obtains Additional National Register Listings

by Mark Christ

Two Trail of Tears segments in Arkansas have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the country's official list of historically significant sites. The sites are:

1) The Springfield-to-Fayetteville Road—Elkhorn Tavern Segment, located northwest of Elkhorn Tavern within the Pea Ridge National Military Park, a nineteenth-century road remnant that was part of the Northern Route traveled by Cherokee Indians between 1837 and 1839 during their removal to Oklahoma. It also was used as an approach and retreat route by Sterling Price's Confederate soldiers during the 1862 Battle of Pea Ridge. The road is noteworthy “by virtue of its status as one of the few segments of road that was traversed in Arkansas by 11 of the 17 Cherokee Removal contingents during the period and along the road known as the Trail of Tears,” the National Register nomination says.

2) The Dover-to-Clarksville Road—Hickytown Road Segment, located east of U.S. Highway 64 near Lamar, is a nineteenth-century road remnant that was traveled by Cherokee Indians between 1834 and 1838 during their removal to Oklahoma. The road is noteworthy “by virtue of its status as one of the few intact surviving segments of road traversed by the Harris, Whiteley, and Bell Detachments during the Cherokee Removal,” the National Register nominations says.

In addition, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has completed registration requirements that will add oxbow lakes and river segments that conform to the 1830s river beds traveled by Removal contingents to be listed on the National Register. The materials are being reviewed by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. AHPP historians are continuing fieldwork to determine whether any Arkansas oxbow lakes or river segments may be eligible for National Register recognition.

### BOARD

Continued from page 8



Photo by Marty King  
Paul Austin (center) lightens the mood during the second day of strategic planning by rewarding participation with a cookie. Bill Jones gets his reward, while NPS staffer John Conoboy wonders when he'll be rewarded.

Susan Zornek-Stevens. Additionally, staff members Paul Austin, Lois Bethards, and Jerra Quinton attended the meeting, as well as John Conoboy and Jere Krakow from the

National Park Service (NPS). Visitors included Karen Frailey from Illinois, Agnes Jones from Tennessee, Joyce Bear from the Muscogee Creek Nation, and Barbara Grant from the Choctaw Nation.

Regarding the spring board meetings, the board directed staff to bring cost scenarios for Memphis, Little Rock, and Nashville to the next board meeting in October for the board's review. At that time, the board anticipates deciding where the spring board meetings will take place on a permanent basis.

The 2006 TOTA conference will take place in Illinois, Kentucky, or Missouri, and will more than likely be hosted by all or some combination of the three. This will be decided at the October 2005 board meeting.

The board directed staff to appoint members to a chapter bylaws committee. The

goal of the committee will be to recreate a bylaws template that every chapter will adopt.

Jere Krakow and John Conoboy gave an update on the NPS office in Santa Fe. Jere said that the completion date for the 15-to-20 minute Trail of Tears film being produced by Riche-Heape is set for the summer of 2006. John discussed a new interest in the Trail by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The next board meeting take place on November 1, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the



Photo by Marty King  
Jere Krakow and Andy West listen intently as Ken Hubbell (right) facilitates the strategic planning session.

Marriott Hotel at the Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This meeting coincides with the conference.



Photo by Ruth Hegwood of SRC  
Cherokee Nation citizen Roy Boney, Jr., having just received a fellowship from UALR, will be researching Indian removal at the Sequoyah Research Center.

## SRC Names Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Fellow

by Dan Littlefield

The Sequoyah Research Center (SRC) at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has named Roy Boney, Jr., as recipient of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Fellowship for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Boney, who is from Locust Grove, Oklahoma, graduated magna cum laude from Oklahoma State University in 2002. As an undergraduate student, he worked as an illustrator for the Department of

Education and as principal animator for the Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State. Since graduation, he has served as an intern at Universal Limited Art Editions in Bay Shore, New York, and worked as corporate image specialist for Cell Marque in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Since October 2004, he has been visiting artist at the American Indian Resource Center, Inc., in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he served as an animation instructor, animator, art director, and story artist, working with high school students in the development of Cherokee-language animations for CD-ROM production. Boney is member of the Cherokee Nation and a fluent speaker of Cherokee.

Boney joins the SRC under a fellowship that was established in the fall of 2004 by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation of Mayetta, Kansas. The fellowship's tenure is two academic years, during which Boney will work with the SRC director in processing and creating research resource guides to the extensive press history collection of the SRC. In addition, he will be assigned to the SRC research team on Indian removal, which has previously focused on the southern tribal nations but will expand its research to include those from the north-east and Great Lakes regions, including the Potawatomi peoples.

Scott and Fort Delaney, and a segment of the Georgia Road south of Fort Butler.

In western Arkansas, where the Bell route and land components of the water route overlap, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, working through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, nominated a portion of the Dover to Clarksdale Road in Johnson County. Lieutenant R.H.K. Whitely's Water Detachment and the Bell Detachment both traveled on this portion of trail. In 1834, the ill-fated Harris Detachment also traveled over this stretch of trail shortly after dozens of their group perished from cholera at Cadron. Known as the Hickeytown Road segment, this site entered the National Register of Historic Places in late May.



Photo by James Archembeault  
This photo shows the underside of the arch, called Mantle Rock, and was a campsite for Cherokees being removed during the winter of 1838-39.

### ROUTES

Continued from page 11

across the Snowbird Mountains. Cherokee collected at Fort Montgomery followed this route to Fort Delaney and on to the depot at Fort Butler in the spring of 1838. This nomination expands on a nomination previously submitted for a smaller segment of the road prepared by Phil Thomason in 2003. They also prepared nominations for four segments of the Unicoi turnpike from Fort Butler to the Tennessee state line. All Cherokee removed from North Carolina followed this route to the depot at Fort Cass on the Hiwassee River in Tennessee. Also among the nominations is one for a segment of the State Road between Camp

## Mantle Rock Preserve Listed as Certified Site in June 2004

by Shelly Morris

The 367-acre Mantle Rock Preserve, owned by the Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, is located in northern Livingston County, Kentucky. This area offers an abundance of biological diversity as well as historical significance. The Mantle Rock itself is a 30-foot high, 188-foot long natural, sandstone arch. This arch forms a type of glade habitat which is very rare in west Kentucky and some of the plants located here can be found nowhere else in the state.

The Mantle Rock area also holds an important place in history. The arch and surrounding bluffs and cliffs served as shelter for Cherokee Native Americans traveling along the Trail of Tears in the winter of 1838-39. Many were held up while conditions on the Ohio River prohibited passage. A visible section of the actual Trail of Tears also runs through the property, and remnants of other Native American cultures can also be found on the preserve. In June of 2004, the Mantle Rock Preserve became a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The goals of the certification agreement between The Kentucky Chapter and the National Park Service are to enhance interpretation and preservation of cultural resources at the site. It has also recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The preserve is open year round from sunrise to sunset, and approximately one mile of easy hiking trail is available for visitor

Are you a current member of TOTA?  
If not, please join TOTA today!

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

January - December



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(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

#### Trail of Tears National Historic Trail



**Trail News** is produced by the partnership of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe.

#### Managing Editor/Designer

Jerra Quinton

#### Contributors

Jack Baker, Steve Burns, Mark Christ, John Conoboy, Duane King, Deborah Kirk-Rodriguez, Jere Krakow, Dan Littlefield, Aaron, Mahr, Shelly Morris, Jerra Quinton, Brett Riggs, Andrea Sharon, and TOTA state chapters.

#### Editor

Jane Harvey

#### Photographer

(unless otherwise noted)  
Andrea Sharon

#### Comments and/or Address Changes? Contact:

Jerra Quinton  
Trail of Tears Association  
1100 N. University, Suite 143  
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344  
[TOTAJerra@aol.com](mailto:TOTAJerra@aol.com)

#### Website

[www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte)

#### Trail of Tears Association



The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail resources; to promote awareness of the Trail's legacy, including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the National Park Service's Trail plan.

#### Trail of Tears Association 1100 North University, Suite 143 Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

**Phone**  
800-441-4513  
501-666-9032

**E-Mail**  
[TOTAJerra@aol.com](mailto:TOTAJerra@aol.com)

**Website**  
[www.nationalTOTA.org](http://www.nationalTOTA.org)

#### National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe



The National Trails System Office - Santa Fe administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is administered jointly by the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

**National Trails System Office - Santa Fe**  
**PO Box 728**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504**

**Phone**  
505-988-6888

**E-Mail**  
[lodi\\_administration@nps.gov](mailto:lodi_administration@nps.gov)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Passport Stamps Now Available at Trail of Tears Certified Sites

by Andrea Sharon

The Passport to Your National Parks Program has been very popular at national park sites for the past two decades. Visitors have enjoyed filling their passport books with cancellation stamps as a reminder of their visits and park experiences, and collecting the annual national and regional stamps featuring the diverse units of the National Park System. Recently, the program has broadened to include units of the National Trails System—both national historic and scenic trails.

The National Trails System office staff in Santa Fe have ordered a state-specific cancellation stamp for certified sites along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail that



Pick up your passport book at any national park.

have a visitor facility with regularly scheduled hours of operation. Passport books can only be stamped by visitors while at a site; not through the mail. Sites have also been encouraged to sell the passport booklet and the annual national and regional commemorative stamps.

The following sites have recently received their new cancellation stamp and await your visit with passport in hand!

- Georgia**
- New Echota State Historic Site
  - Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home
  - Vann House Historic Site
  - Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park



These passport stamps can be found at Trail of Tears National Historic Trail certified sites that have a visitor facility with regularly scheduled hours of operation.

- North Carolina**
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian
  - Cherokee County Historical Museum
  - Junaluska Memorial and Museum
  - Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- Tennessee**
- Red Clay State Historic Site
  - Sequoyah Birthplace Museum
  - Audubon Acres
  - Tennessee River Museum
  - Chattanooga Regional History Museum
  - Stones River National Battlefield
  - Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- Kentucky**
- Trail of Tears Commemorative Park

**Alabama**  
(None at this time)

- Oklahoma**
- Cherokee Heritage Center
  - Murrell Home

- Arkansas**
- Lake Dardanelle State Park
  - Mount Nebo State Park
  - Petit Jean State Park
  - Pinnacle Mountain State Park
  - Fort Smith National Historic Site
  - Pea Ridge National Military Park
  - Arkansas Post National Historic Site

- Missouri**
- Mark Twain National Forest
  - Visitor Center/Moccasin Springs Road/Nancy Hildebrand’s Gravesite in Trail of Tears State Park

- Illinois**
- Trail of Tears State Forest

- All TRTE states**
- National Trails System office, Santa Fe, New Mexico
  - Trail of Tears Association National Office, Little Rock, Arkansas

**OLD ARMY ROAD**  
Continued from page 9

building before converging with the current road. Mr. Sharp indicated that the old road is coincident with the current Long Creek road from Long Creek Church northward to Robbinsville where it crossed Fort Hill, the former site of Fort Montgomery.

The survey revealed that substantial segments of the Old Army Road survive from the toe of Pile Ridge outside of Andrews north to the Rock Creek confluence with Long Creek. Although the old military road is braided by the Tatham Gap Road on both sides of the mountain, many intervening

segments of the old trace are remarkably intact over the over the 4.5-mile course within the Nantahala National Forest.

In recognition of the historical significance of the “Old Army Road,” the University of North Carolina Research Laboratories of Archaeology has prepared and submitted a National Register nomination for preserved segments of the route on federal lands. It is hoped that inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will ensure the continued preservation and management of this road trace that so strongly conveys a sense of the remote and arduous routes used in the 1838 Cherokee removal from North Carolina.

10th Annual TOTA Conference & Symposium

Tentative Schedule

Monday, October 31st	Tuesday, November 1st	Wednesday, November 2nd	Thursday, November 3rd
<b>T R A V E L</b>	<b>Morning</b> 8:00 - 11:30 AM Registration at Hotel 8:30 - Noon TOTA Board Meeting	<b>Morning</b> 8:30 - 9:30 AM General Assembly Duane King 9:45 - 10:45 AM 1st Concurrent Sessions 11:00 AM - Noon 2nd Concurrent Sessions	<b>Morning</b> 8:00 - 8:30 AM Business Meeting 8:30 - 9:30 AM General Assembly NPS Update 9:45 - 10:45 AM 3rd Concurrent Sessions 11:00 AM - Noon 4th Concurrent Sessions
	<b>Lunch</b> Welcome Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield	<b>Lunch</b> ON YOUR OWN	<b>Lunch</b> Keynote Chief Michell Hicks, EBCI
<b>Afternoon</b> Noon - 3:00 PM Registration at Hotel 4:00 - 6:00 PM Passage Tour & Reception 212 Market Restaurant	<b>Afternoon</b> 2:00 - 7:00 PM Red Clay/Rattlesnake Springs Tour Brown’s Tavern Tour Blythe’s Ferry Tour	<b>Afternoon</b> 1:15 - 2:15 PM General Assembly TPL & UTC 4:30 - 7:00 PM Riverboat Field Trip	<b>Afternoon</b>  FREE

TOTA thanks First Tennessee Bank for sponsoring the Monday evening reception at the 212 Market Restuarant.

**Tentative Speakers**

- Duane King – Current Research
- Vicki Rozema – Brainerd Mission
- Carol Roberts, TN State Library & Archives – Document Preservation
- Anna Smith - Moravians and Cherokees
- Brett Riggs/Russ Townsend – Unicoi Turnpike and Fort Armstead
- The Trust for Public Land/University of Tennessee GIS Department – Update on TPL efforts and GIS Capabilities

**Field Trips**

- Red Clay/Rattlesnake Springs Tour – Red Clay was the last council grouds of the Cherokee before Removal. The Cherokee chose Red Clay after they were forced by the state of Georgia to move from New Echota. Rattlesnake Springs and the Cherokee Agency are located near Calhoun, Tennessee; this was the site of most of the internment camps in the summer of 1838. This bus tour is limited in capacity, so sign up ASAP. Dinner will be included in the tour fee, which is **\$25**.
- Brown’s Tavern Tour – Built in 1803 by the prominent Cherokee businessman and leader, John Brown, this tavern and inn was a well-known stopping place in the old Cherokee Nation, hosting several notable Cherokee leaders. It is located along the removal route of two Cherokee detachments during the Trail of Tears. Sign-up will be located at the registration desk at the conference. Free.
- Blythe’s Ferry Tour – This is the site where the majority of the Cherokee crossed the Tennessee River and left the Cherokee Nation in route west to Indian Territory. Sign-up will be located at the registration desk at the conference. Free.
- Riverboat Tour – Sites to see on this two-hour boat ride aboard the *Southern Belle* will be the site of Brown’s Ferry and Moccasin Bend (on the Water Route). Two Cherokee detachments crossed the Tennessee River from Moccasin Bend on Brown’s Ferry during the Trail of Tears. Other detachments traveling on the river paused at this site before taking on the difficult river straits below Chattanooga in the spring of 1838. Tour participants will be served dinner aboard the boat. The fee for this trip is **\$35**.





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\$\$\$\$\$ Challenge Cost-Share Program - 2006 \$\$\$\$\$

Many of the projects accomplished along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail are receiving funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program. Your project might qualify, too. Give us a call and we will send you a project proposal form and instructions. Projects should support the programs and goals of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as set forth in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan.

If you have a possible project, contact John Conoboy right away by mail or phone (505-988-6733).

Remember, Challenge Cost-Share funds are not a grant, but rather are funds for mutually-agreed-upon national historic trail projects.

Site-specific projects can generally only be funded for certified sites. Projects can be related to resource protection, management, visitor use facilities,

interpretation, education, or research. Projects require a 50/50 match of federal and nonfederal funding. However, the nonfederal match can include the value of volunteer time and other in-kind services, donated equipment and supplies, and so forth. If you're not sure whether or not your project will qualify, call us anyway, and let's talk.

Project proposals should be received at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe by February 3, 2006.